Declining profit/productivity of NALCO

2214. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the profit and productivity of NALCO, Orissa is decreasing every year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR.(SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the year 1998-99 the production of Aluminium was unusually low due to the potline crisis in the Aluminium Smelter of NALCO. Consequently profits in that year were also low. The position has now reverted to normal in the current year.

Mineral exploitation from sea bed

2215. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a legislation to enable optimal exploitation of mineral resources laying below the sea bed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the proposed legislation would be presented in the Budget Session of the Parliament;

(c) whether the said legislation incorporates some of the major recommendations of S.D. Sharma Committee on the subject and will lay down environmental norms for the companies exploiting the marine resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No Sir. Any new legislation on optimal exploitation of mineral resources lying below the sea bed requires to be in harmony with the provisions of the existing legislation governing maritime resources. The Ministry of Mines and Minerals has not completed the process of necessary inter departmental consulations in this regard.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above do not arise.

Exploitation of Zinc Deposits

†2216. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government will start actually the exploitation work of zinc deposits found at Kapad Ghughara area near Ajmer city; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the amount sanctioned so far for the exploitation of the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Government has no plan to exploit zinc deposits at Kapad Ghughara area near Ajmer City (Rajasthan). However, Hindustan Zinc (HZL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Mines, has been granted a Mining Lease (ML) in Kayar, district Ajmer (Rajasthan) where drilling work is being carried out for techno-economic feasibility study scheduled to be completed by March 2002. For exploitation of lead-zinc deposits in Ghughra Bhunabay area district Ajmer (Rajasthan), the ML was granted by the State Government of Rajasthan to HZL. However, the State Government of Rajasthan revoked the said ML, HZL has filed a Revision Application (RA) against revocation orders of the State Government before the Central Tribunal. Thus, the matter is subjudice and the decision on ML will depend on the orders of the Tribunal on the RA.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of coal by MMTC

2217. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) how much quanitity of coal have been imported by the MMTC upto the December, 1999 and at what rate;

(b) whether huge stock of coal is lying at various mines in our country;

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of labourers are jobless due to this import;

(d) whether inter-ministerial groups know about this fact; and

(e) what action has been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The amount of steam coal imported by MMTC during the last three years is as under:

S.No.	Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value(cost & freight) (Rs. in Crores)
1.	1997-98	2,68,044	53.73
2.	1998-99	1,10,338	24.79
3.	1999-2000 (upto Dec' 1999)	2,59,693	39.95